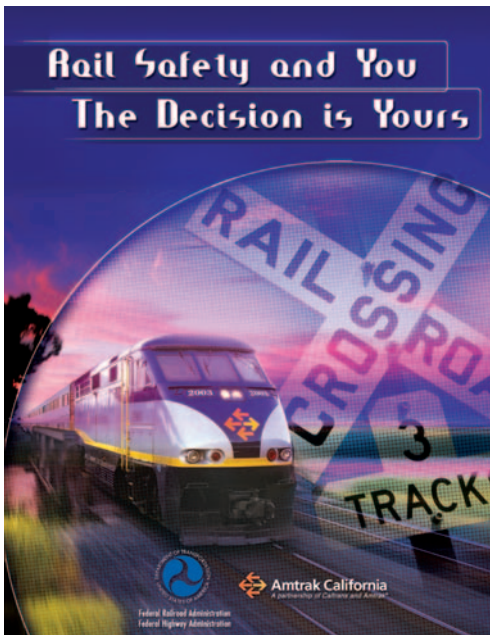


# making tracks

Vol.14, No. 3 Fall 2004

## Rail Safety Program Inaugurated

Caltrans Division of Rail, with assistance from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), has launched a new program of rail safety for middle schools and high schools in California.



The school program, which is called The A to Z Project, calls on the schools to help end the needless train related tragedies that happen throughout the state and often involve school children. The program includes a 36-page booklet on train safety for teens and adults that covers all train subjects from Advance warning to danger Zone, and a CD that includes two rail safety films.

Copies of the booklet and the CD are being sent to middle school and high school principals for introduction into the Fall 2004 school curriculum. An introductory letter, signed by Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, and Alvin Settje, Regional Administrator for the

Federal Railroad Administration, accompanies the booklets and CDs to the principals touting the program.

The booklet explains public rail safety through the eyes and experience of train crews, and includes railroad history, trivia and a 15-question quiz.

The CD includes "Life Sentence," an award winning film that tells the story of a group of young adults in an automobile and how the driver's fatal action of driving around lowered crossing gates affected the lives of those in the car and many others. "Tracks Can't Watch Your Back" shows a popular high school senior taking a short cut along the railroad tracks to his after school job. He never makes it to work. The video was made by his graduating class to help others in their age group understand the potentially tragic consequences of trespassing on railroad property.

## Yosemite in Fall

Cold mountain streams, sheer rock cliffs in the moonlight, brilliant fall foliage colors and groves of giant sequoias await you when you visit Yosemite National Park in the fall.

And the best way to get there is on the train. From Sacramento, the Bay Area or Bakersfield take a San Joaquin train to Merced. A VIA motorcoach will be standing by to take you on a narrated ride through the Gold Country to Yosemite Valley.

Take a sightseeing tour of the Valley in an open-air tram to see

*continued on page 3*



# Kids N' Trains — Now \$3 Fare Per Zone

Taking a field trip is more fun and less costly when you travel on Amtrak California's San Joaquin Kids N' Trains Program.

From now through February 28, 2005, groups of 20 or more on the Kids N' Trains program will receive a \$3 per person round trip fare for each zone traveled in the same day. (See Zone Map.) The \$3 fare applies to travel in or through zones 1 through 5. The cost for travel in Zone 6 is \$20 round trip per person.

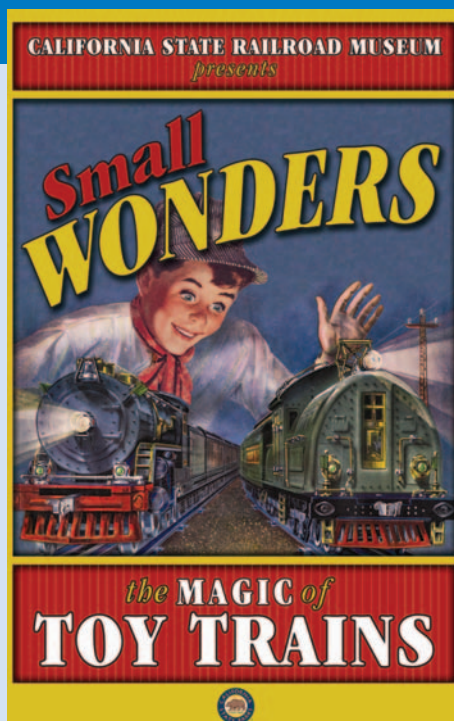
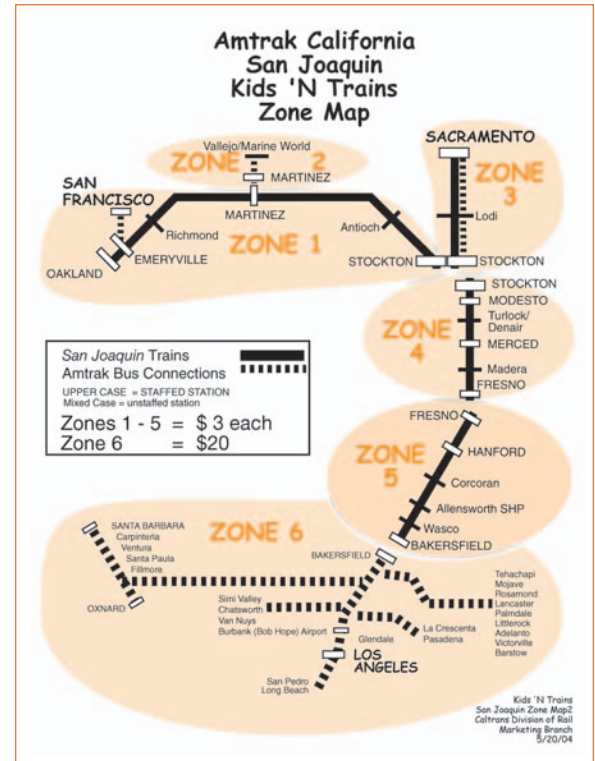
From March 1 through the end of the program on May 26, 2005, the fare is still a great bargain at \$6 per person per zone round trip for zones 1 through 5. Zone 6 stays at \$20 per person.

Here are some examples of same-day round trip fares per person:

Fresno to Hanford	1 zone \$3
Oakland to Six Flags Marine World	2 zones \$6
Bakersfield to Sacramento	3 zones \$9
Merced to Los Angeles	3 zones, including Zone 6 \$26

There are 8 daily trains between Oakland and Bakersfield and 4 daily trains between Sacramento and Bakersfield. The program is subject to space availability and not available for travel on Fridays and Sundays. A reservation is required a minimum of 30 days prior to travel date. For full information and to obtain a reservation form see [www.amtrakcalifornia.com](http://www.amtrakcalifornia.com) and click on Kids N'

Trains. Or fax your request for a complete travel package to Dennis Winger at (916) 653-4565. Include your name, school or group name, and address. Be sure to ask for the San Joaquin Kids N' Trains offer.



## Toy Train Exhibit

The California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento has opened the new Thomas W. Sefton Gallery of Toy Trains to showcase one of the most comprehensive toy train collections in the world. The collection is so extensive, only a portion will be displayed at one time.

In addition to the Thomas W. Sefton toy train collection, visitors will learn that toy trains are an art form and how they have become part of our culture and heritage; how and why people, such as Sefton, collect toy train items; how toy trains operate; and how, over the years developing technology added color, movement and light.

The State Railroad Museum is located in Old Sacramento within easy walking distance of the Amtrak Sacramento Station. With Amtrak's Kids Ride 1/2 Price program on San Joaquin trains, the train is the perfect way to get the Railroad Museum to see the toy train exhibition. Groups of 20 or more can ride the train to Sacramento with a fare as low as \$3 per person roundtrip. See accompanying Kids N' Trains story.



# Visit Hanford

Hanford is a city that grew up around the railroad and was named for the railroad paymaster – James Madison Hanford – who continually rode the Central Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads. He selected the location of the city that was named after him along the San Joaquin railroad route.

And what better way to visit Hanford than on the train. Amtrak California's San Joaquins offer 8 daily trains between Oakland and Bakersfield and 4 daily trains between Sacramento and Bakersfield, all stopping in Hanford.

Start your tour of Hanford at the Amtrak Station, rebuilt in 1991 on the same site and in the same style of the original 1897 station. The Hanford Visitor Agency is located at the station and can arrange walking tours or a tour on a Studebaker fire engine that makes a regular stop at the station to take visitors all around the city.

Civic Center Park is a short walk from the train station, where you can enjoy a picnic lunch and the children can ride the antique carousel. Near the carousel are the Courthouse, Civic Auditorium and Fox Theatre, an elegant, historic theater you will enjoy visiting if a performance is scheduled during your stay in Hanford.

The Taoist Temple in Hanford's China Alley displays historic exhibits of early Chinese residents who worked in the city and helped build the railroad. Shops and restaurants line the Alley.

The Carnegie Museum is located in a building that originally housed the Carnegie Library built in 1905. The Museum includes displays and photographs of the city's early history, including artifacts of the Yokuts Indians, the area's first residents. Other museums include the Clark Center for Japanese Art, Kings Art Center, which houses traveling art works, and the Museum at Burris Park, dedicated to exhibitions of art objects illustrating the history of Kings County.

Visit the antique and specialty shops in the downtown area. Every Thursday night through October, there is a Night Market Place and in early December a Holiday Wine and Chocolate Tasting.



*Photo by Dick Hauck. Courtesy of Hanford Conference and Visitor Agency*



## Amtrak Receives Santa Barbara Tourism Award

Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Bureau and Film Commission honored Amtrak as a "Tourism Star" for its support of car-free travel to Santa Barbara and promotion of Santa Barbara as a world-class tourism destination. Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum (center) made the presentation of the "Golden Trumpet" to Amtrak Marketing and Sales Manager Brian Hart and Station Manager Carol Crego.

## Yosemite continued

El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall and Half Dome. A shuttle bus provides service to major trailheads, the Visitor Center, Indian Cultural Exhibit, Ansel Adams Gallery, shops, lodges, restaurants and major vistas, including Glacier Point's spectacular view of Yosemite Valley and the high country, and Tuolumne Meadows surrounded by mountain peaks.

For complete San Joaquin schedules, fares and to make reservations on the train and the connecting VIA motorcoach, call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL or visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).

# Ride San Joaquins and BART to Oakland Football Games

San Joaquin Valley football fans going to a Sunday afternoon football game at the Oakland Coliseum will find the best and easiest way to get to and from the game is aboard Amtrak California's San Joaquin trains and BART trains.

Fans may board a train at any station along the San Joaquin route, including Bakersfield, Wasco, Corcoran, Hanford, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Turlock/Denair, Modesto, Stockton, Antioch and Martinez. At the Richmond Amtrak Station leave the train and board a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) train bound for Fremont on an adjoining platform. Exit BART at the Coliseum Oakland Airport Station and take the elevated walkway to the stadium. BART tickets may be purchased ahead of time at a discount aboard Amtrak trains.

After the game, San Joaquin passengers should go directly to the Coliseum BART Station and take the first departing BART train to Richmond. Departures at 4:37, 4:57, and 5:17pm should have passengers to Richmond by no later than 5:55pm, in time to connect with the last southbound San Joaquin train departing from Richmond at 6:10pm. It is the responsibility of those attending a game to depart the Coliseum Complex in sufficient time to return to the BART station and board a BART train. Amtrak is not responsible for late passenger arrivals at Richmond Station.

Passengers going to a game must make a roundtrip reservation for the train by calling Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL. Specify San Joaquin trains #711 (northbound) and #718 (southbound). Sunday afternoon home games will be held on October 17 and 24; November 21; December 5 and 19; and January 2, beginning at 1:15 p.m.

## Scottish Highland Games in Ventura

The Seaside Highland Games will be held at Seaside Park in Ventura October 8, 9 and 10. There will be activities for adults and children. Scottish athletics, hammer throwing, Highland and Irish step dancing, traditional Scottish foods, sheep herding demonstrations, and a chance to trace your genealogy, listen to bagpipes and watch the games.

And the best way to get to the Highland Games is on Amtrak California's Pacific Surfliner trains. The Amtrak station is at Harbor and Figueroa, directly across the street from Seaside Park. And if you want to visit the ocean, it is just a few blocks away. Amtrak is offering passengers going to and from the Highland Games a free companion fare. Call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL for details.

Seaside Highland Games start at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. A southbound train from San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara arrives at 9:58 a.m. The next train arrives at 12:18 p.m. Northbound from Orange County, Los Angeles, and the San Fernando Valley the train arrives at 10:54 a.m. There will be a "Scottish Evening" Friday night with dinner, live entertainment and a fashion show.



**State of California**  
Arnold Schwarzenegger,  
Governor

**Business, Transportation  
& Housing Agency**  
Sunne Wright McPeak,  
Secretary

**Department of  
Transportation**  
Randell H. Iwasaki,  
Interim Director

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